

Blanchard, Deborah

From: Patricia Harmon <pat@patriciaharmon.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 10:16 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Testimony re Connecticut Bears

Dear Co-Chair Doyle, Co-Chair Kissel, Co-Chair Tong, Vice Chair Winfield, Vice Chair McLachlan, Vice Chair Stafstrom, Ranking Member Rebimbas, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please accept this public hearing testimony in SUPPORT of HB 5469, An Act Concerning Bear Hunting.

Two beloved Wilton bears that were recently poached highlights the cruelty of trophy hunting. These two bears were beloved by area residents who had appreciated viewing them from a distance.

The Connecticut bear population is small and needs protection. Over the years, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has made no effort to increase poaching penalties, keeping them unacceptably weak (currently, poaching is only a Class C misdemeanor). This bill is a step in the right direction. DEEP has also been aggressively pursuing a bear trophy hunting agenda, which I vigorously oppose.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Patricia Harmon
385 Janes Lane
Stamford, CT
06903